

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 02863 281521Z

47

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-07 TRSE-00 ABF-01 SR-02

ORM-01 CU-02 /096 W

----- 077266

R 281118Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3531

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2863

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA

1. TAKING OCCASION OF DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR FA NGUM SCHOOL AT LUANG PRABANG, I CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA APRIL 26. I FOUND HIM LOOKING TIRED AND AGED. WHEN HE IS LIKE THIS IT IS BETTER TO AVOID CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.

2. I OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING I SIMPLY WANTED TO PAY MY RESPECTS ON HIM SINCE I WAS IN LUANG PRABANG. HE THANKED ME AND IMMEDIATELY ASKED IF WE COULD HELP BY PROVIDING DYNAMITE NEEDED TO BUILD UP STOCK OF STORES FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD WHICH CHINESE ARE TO BUILD. I SAID WE WOULD OF COURSE BE GLAD TO HELP AND WOULD SEE WHAT WE COULD DO.

3. I THEN COMMENTED SITUATION IN CAMBODIA AND VIETNAM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 02863 281521Z

VERY SADDENING; U.S. TRYING TO DO WHAT IT COULD TO

BRING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AND ALLEVIATE SUFFERING. BUT, AS FAR AS LAOS WAS CONCERNED, OUR POLICY REMAINED STEADY: TO SUPPORT THE PRIME MINISTER, HIS POLICIES AND HIS COALITION GOVERNMENT. ON THIS HIS ONLY COMMENT WAS THAT THIEU HAD WAITED TOO LONG BUT EVEN NOW THERE MIGHT STILL BE A CHANCE OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. I SAID THAT IN VIENTIANE THERE WAS ALSO SOME CONCERN REGARDING THE WORSENING ECONOMIC SITUATION. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE THAT THE RECENT SHARP DROP IN THE FREE-MARKET RATE FOR THE KIP WAS LINKED QUITE DIRECTLY TO THE SITUATION IN VIETNAM AND THAT THE RATE SHOULD COME DOWN WHEN THE SITUATION THERE WAS STABILIZED. I SAID THAT THE PGNU'S RECENT DECISION ON THE REALIGNMENT OF OFFICIAL RATES OF EXCHANGE HAD BEEN HELPFUL AND THAT U.S. WAS MAINTAINING ITS SUPPORT FOR FEOF. HE SEEMED TO HAVE NO INTEREST IN ECONOMIC SUBJECTS AND BRUSHED ASIDE PRESENT DIFFICULTIES AS ONLY TEMPORARY.

5. MY COMMENT THAT THE MILITARY SITUATION IN LAOS WAS ALSO CAUSING SOME CONCERN IN VIENTIANE BROUGHT A LIVELIER REACTION. REGARDING SALA PHOU KHOUN, SOUVANNA SAID THAT VANG PAO HAD OVER-REACTED BY IMMEDIATELY SENDING IN T-28S. REGARDING BAN HOU EI SAI, HE SAID THAIS HAD CLOSED THE BORDER, SENT IN REINFORCEMENTS AND HEIGHTENED TENSIONS IN AREA. REGARDING NANYANG (ONE OF VILLAGES SOME 25 KMS NORTH OF VIENTIANE WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN FIREFIGHTS IN LAST MONTH), HE SAID THIS HAD LONG BEEN AREA OF PASSAGE FOR PL AND FAR SHOULD NOT INTERFERE. "WHAT WOULD FAR DO IF PL INTERDICTED RESUPPLY FLIGHTS TO BOUN LOUM?" (VIENTIANE SIDE ENCLAVE IN PL TERRITORY) HE ASKED RHETORICALLY. THERE WAS NO SENSE ARGUING THE POINTS AND I ANSWERED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR OUTSIDE OBSERVER TO HAVE CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE OF SITUATIONS PARTICULARLY SUCH AS AT NANYANG. NEVERTHELESS, AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, PL WERE AT LEAST 7 KMS EAST OF INTERSECTION OF ROADS 7 AND 13 AT TIME OF CEASE-FIRE, SO THEY APPEAR TO HAVE ADVANCED SINCE THEM. WHAT IMPRESSED ME WAS GROWING FEELING OF FRUSTRATION OF VIENTIANE SIDE WHICH RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY FELT PL CONTINUED TO PROBE WHERE-

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 02863 281521Z

EVER THEY COULD. AROUND NANYANG, FOR INSTANCE, WE WERE TOLD PL SENT PROPAGANDA TEAMS THROUGHOUT AREA.

6. HE RECOGNIZED FRUSTRATIONS FELT ON VIENTIANE SIDE BUT SAID VIENTIANE SIDE MINISTERS HAD PROVED INCAPABLE OF WORKING TOGETHER. IN FACT, HE FOUND SISOUK SO LACKING IN DIPLOMACY THAT HE WAS THINKING OF THROWING HIM OUT OF HIS J\_F226YW:67\*:@TRTJ7"@##+TWKN0K+7

\_H?(T-\$2<7V("F  
",@\$7M,F/,F\$B8?  
(+FRJ6CS5-N/"C29BUA(PB@B&"Q<I)1(G)!DP  
;T;\* ;IQ4WU#\*VW !F#,A5TH4  
X\$YTR/TI-"H0D((RFQ.F->5QJ!@\*!S#-SPD\_-V|@FI\_+<WF 0F6W3+ZJ#8\$CUHX F#,U)\*ICAFFFV +>5!GAUX\$8\_B  
;M"K (FFP"/REP!W7,AR:IT#<DR!AUH7"  
TFT(+;K0MM>XDW,R\_\$<K=SU\_K  
8<)VFR?FHHU531  
IA6\$ZJPGW"\$!KAARHW D1QBH8FO"NUBI:UJRI\_  
CJQG\*C8F33FFAH)@1Z>5P"7T\_!8QHC2\$VMO;HKUJFQZ K6T.5\_"0  
0A0 .HTQE\_ME  
JQFGP2.66686E-78KFE#P\_WKA<@<## K1KO

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, HIGHWAYS, ECONOMIC PROGRAMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975VIENTI02863  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750148-0908  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t1975049/aaaaaiqs.tel  
**Line Count:** 123  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:** ANOMALY  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVERSATION WITH PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA  
**TAGS:** PGOV, PINT, LA, (SOUVANNA PHOUMI)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006